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Comment: The Arizona Wildlife Federation wishes to express its opposition to your proposed plans for two of three planning areas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

002  
Alternatives

When the BLM took over the management of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, in 1976, it was mandated to provide maximum protection for the surface values of the area when making any development decisions. We do not feel that either plan reflects this mandate for what is the largest expanse of federally protected public lands left in the United States.

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The Arizona Wildlife Federation strongly believes that, at the very least, the BLM should adopt Alternative A, the no action alternative. We further believe that you should go beyond Alternative A and provide the essential protections needed to maintain the extraordinary wildlife diversity in the area.

004  
Special  
Designation

The Northeast Planning Area includes the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, one of the most important wetland complexes in the circumpolar arctic region. It provides nesting and molting habitat for untold numbers of waterfowl, shorebirds and loons, including the greater-white fronted geese and snow geese. The area also serves as the calving grounds for caribou.

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We urge you to reconsider your plan to provide protection for only 213,000 acres in the Teshekpuk area. This is less than five percent of the planning area, and is totally inadequate for protection of the wildlife in the area.

Attached: None